

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Hilary Upicksoun, Salmon Catch Monitor
Phone: (907) 442-3420 or 1-800-560-2271
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, Alaska 99762
Date Issued: 8/22/2012
Time: 9:00 a.m.

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 6 hours daily from the hours of 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday, August 22 and ending at 9 p.m. Friday, August 24.

Fishermen are reminded to check with Great Pacific if the buyer needs to shorten the hours they will buy fish because of limited capacity or airline schedules.

During last night's 6 hour fishing period 8 permit holders caught 763 chum salmon. Catches and fishing effort were well below average because of weather. Cumulative catch is now over 221,000 chum salmon and should reach this season's forecast harvest of 250,000 to 280,000 chum salmon if weather improves.

Chum salmon catches at the department test fish project on the Kobuk River at Kiana ranked 3rd best in the 20-year project history. Test fish operations were terminated August 17th. Test fish operations this season were a week shorter than normal because of debris laden and high water conditions prevented the crew from fishing.

Continuing with short duration openings should not jeopardize escapement and allow for subsistence fishing opportunity.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.